

- b) a separation zone in communication with said introduction zone;
- c) at least one PNA probe labeled with a detectable moiety, said PNA probe disposed upstream of said separation zone; and
- d) a sample incubation zone disposed in communication with the sample introduction zone and in communication with the separation zone.

REMARKS

Claims 32-51, 54-62, and 64-74 are pending in this application.

Claims 32-37, 39-51, 53, 55, and 56 are rejected. Claims 38, 54, and 57 are objected.

Claims 58 –62 and 64-71 are allowed.

Claim 57 is amended herein. Claims 32-51, 55, 56, and 72-74 are canceled without prejudice.

Accordingly, claims 54, 57-62, and 64-71 will be pending after entry of this amendment and Applicants respectfully submit these claims are in condition for allowance.

Amendments to the Claims

Without acquiescing with the Examiner's basis for rejection of the claims, claims 32-51, 55, 56, and 72-74 are canceled without prejudice to allow this case to proceed to issue.

Claim 54 was objected to as being dependent on a rejected claim but would otherwise be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claim 54 is not amended as it was rewritten in independent form in the prior response filed on August 30, 1999. Applicants respectfully request that the prior amendment to claim 54 be entered and acknowledged. Accordingly, claim 54 is re-presented for examination without further amendment as Applicants believe the prior amendment addresses the current objection and places claim 54 in condition for allowance.

Claim 57 is rewritten in independent form. Applicants submit that, as amended, claim 57 overcomes the objection and is in condition for allowance.

Rejection of Claims Under 35 USC § 103

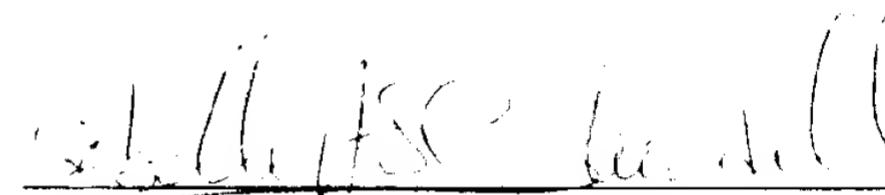
Claims 32-37, 39-51, 53, 55 and 56 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Rose in view of Chen et al. and Nielsen et al. Applicants canceled the

claims without prejudice to allow this case to proceed to issue. Accordingly this rejection is rendered moot.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that this Amendment places the remaining pending claims in condition for allowance. The Examiner is cordially invited to contact the undersigned by any means indicated below, if upon final review of this case, any impediment is found that prevents this case from proceeding to allowance.

Respectfully submitted,


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